

The following communication was received from His Excellency, Governor Bradford, by the hands of J. M. Carter, Esq., Private Secretary :

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

Annapolis, February 1st, 1865.

*Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Delegates :*

I have just received from the Secretary of State of the United States, notification of the fact that the following joint resolution, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States have passed both Houses of Congress, viz :

Joint resolution submitting to the Legislatures of the several States a proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States :

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, (two-thirds of both Houses concurring,) That the following Article be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of said Legislatures, shall be valid, to all intents and purposes, as a part of the said Constitution ; namely,

Article 13, Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crimes, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this Article by appropriate legislation.

As this proposed amendment requires the ratification of the Legislatures of three-fourths of the States, which there is every reason to believe it will promptly receive, I take the earliest opportunity of bringing the subject to your attention in the hope that Maryland will be the first State to ratify the amendment proposed.

A. W. BRADFORD.

Which was read and referred to the committee on Federal Relations.

Mr. Tome, from the committee on Finance, to which was referred the bill entitled, an Act to encourage volunteering under the call of the President of the United States for 300,000 men dated December 1864, and for other purposes;

Reported it with the following amendments :